

# **Bed Wedge Pad**

Cross Reference to Related Application (none)

Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D (none)

## **Background of the Invention**

The invention involves an accessory to a standard size bed or other beds such as queen size or king size. The accessory involves significant barriers at each lateral edge of a mattress or a barrier placed in the middle of a large mattress. The accessory is in the form of a wedge, triangle or other shape as desired, at each lateral side of a mattress to help prevent a person from falling out of the bed. This is especially important in rest homes where the side railings of any bed cannot be left in an upstanding position. These beds are occupied by an impaired person that can still enter or exit a bed by themselves and still has a tendency to inhibit that person from falling out of bed, or a child moving from a crib to a standard bed. This system allows easy entrance or exit from the bed, without altering the barriers.

US Patent No. 4,607,402 illustrates a retainer sheet for a mattress in which extra tunnels are sewn to the top of the sheet into which round foam pieces are inserted to prevent a person from falling out of the bed or exiting the bed without assistance. It is necessary to remove the foam pieces to allow exit from the bed.

US Patent No. 3,148,387 shows a support attachment for a sleeping surface. The sleeping surface consists of a fitted bed sheet that has foam support members attached to lateral sides of the sheet. The support members are encased in a covering and the ends of this configuration are attached to the sheet by way of zippers. The longitudinal

edges of the covering are not attached to the fitted sheet. However, the foam cores are reinforced in their longitudinal extent by steel rods embedded therein.

US Patent No. 4,754,509 is a disclosure similar to the above-identified patent and does not add anything to applicant's inventive concept.

US Patent No. 4,800,600 illustrates a crib bumper device that is not fastened to any sheet thereunder but is held in place by slats of the sides of the crib.

US Patent No. 4,872,228 shows a bed guard that consists of bolsters that are simply held in place by a conventional bed sheet that is draped over the bolsters and then tucked under the mattress. There are no seams to hold the bolsters in place at the edge of the mattress.

US Patent No. 5,351,348 shows a rest pad for an infant. The guard is constructed of a top sheet that has continuous tunnels at each end into which tunnels inflatable tubes are inserted that form the bumper material.

US Patent No. 5,754,998 illustrates a therapeutic bedding pad consisting of a one piece foam material having a resting area in the middle and bumpers at the sides.

### **Summary and objects of the invention**

The invention at hand consists of a pad, which is separate from the mattress to which it is attached. The pad is the well known fitted pad which covers the top of a mattress continues around the sides and then is fastened on the underside of the mattress by either elastic seams or pull cords contained in a hem. The object of the invention is to create a mattress pad that has pockets attached at the lateral sides of the pad. This will prevent or inhibit an occupant of the bed from falling out of the bed, and a

1 secure feeling to guide a person to the center of the bed, but still giving the occupant  
2 the ability to get out of bed. The pockets are constructed in such a manner so that the  
3 wedges cannot be pushed aside by the occupant of the bed, or require removing the  
4 wedge to exit the bed as is required in other references cited above. It is also possible  
5 to install a center foam barrier in the pad cover of the mattress that is a suggestion of  
6 two separate sleeping areas. In this manner, when two persons are occupying the same  
7 bed, they will not interfere with each other while sleeping and at the same time still  
8 being inhibited from falling out of the bed. The option of using these inserts is  
9 determined by the user.

#### 11 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

12 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a mattress having a fitted mattress pad installed  
13 thereon with wedges installed therein;

14 Fig. 2 illustrates a foam rubber wedge being encased in a casing;

15 Fig. 3 shows how the wedge casing of Fig. 2 is closed at its end;

16 Fig. 4 shows how the end of the wedge casing as it is closed with the wedge  
17 located therein.

#### 19 **Detailed description of the Invention**

20 Turning now to Fig. 1, which, as was noted above, is a perspective view of a mattress  
21 having a fitted mattress pad with wedges therein installed thereon. The overall mattress  
22 pad is denoted as 1 having a forward edge 16. As can be seen on the front wall of the  
23 perspective view, there are pockets 2 provided into which the profiled wedges 8 are

1 inserted. The pockets 2 are sewn to the fitted pad or mattress cover 1 from the reverse  
2 side. An extra sheet 17 of bedding material is used for this purpose. A first seam 4  
3 secures the extra sheet 17 right at the edge where the extra sheet 17 meets with the  
4 edge of the mattress. A second seam 3 secures the extra sheet 17 to the fitted pad 1 at  
5 a location that is away from the edge of the mattress and by allowing access material,  
6 the pocket 2 is formed. This operation can now be performed on the opposite side of  
7 the mattress pad to form the second pocket. As mentioned above, the sewing operation  
8 of fitted sheet 17 is performed on the inside of the mattress pad 1 to hide the pockets in  
9 the interior of the fitted mattress pad 1 to prevent the wedges from working out of the  
10 pocket and for aesthetic reasons. Also a further pocket can be installed in the middle of  
11 the fitted mattress pad as is shown at 7. This enables two persons to sleep on a larger  
12 mattress without interfering with each other while creating two sleeping surfaces and  
13 still inhibit falling out of the bed. Of course, there is a wide choice that can be made as  
14 to a selection of the profiles of the foam rubber. The illustrated shape 8 of an obtuse  
15 triangle is preferred but is not limited to that shape. Experimentation has shown that this  
16 shape is best suited for the intended purpose. The fitted mattress pad is well known  
17 and is fastened to the underside of the mattress by pull cords 6 which are contained in  
18 the hem 5. Other fastening systems are also well known such as elastic bands. Also  
19 shown in Fig. 1 is a casing 9 for the foam rubber wedge 8. The casing 9 should consist  
20 of a somewhat slippery material such as taffeta. This is important, because once the  
21 pockets 2 and 7 are created, the foam rubber wedges 8 have and should have a  
22 somewhat tight fit. In this instance, it will be difficult to insert the wedges 8 into the  
23 pockets 2 and 7 because of the frictional characteristics of the foam's outer surface. The

1   slippery material of the casing 9 will greatly aid in this endeavor.

2           Fig. 2 illustrates how the foam wedge 8 is inserted into casing 9. The casing 9  
3   on its upper side having part 10 of the hook and loop system sewn or otherwise  
4   attached thereto. Other closing systems are also well known such as snaps, or a flap  
5   tuck such as a sandwich bag (not shown).

6           Fig. 3 shows one type of the closing system for the foam casing 9. The casing 9  
7   has a flap 13 having fasteners 11 and 12 of the hook and loop system sewn or otherwise  
8   attached thereto. Once the foam wedge 8 is completely inserted into the casing 9, the  
9   flap 13 having the fasteners 11 and 12 thereon will be brought up to match the fasteners  
10   10 and 14 respectively (14 not shown) on casing 9. The hook and loop system again  
11   has one part fasteners 10 and 14 (14 not shown) attached to the outside of casing 9.  
12   Once the flap 13 is brought over the end of the foam casing, 10 and 11 will meet and  
13   close the foam casing. Also 12 and 14 (14 not shown) will meet and close this fastener  
14   on the other side of the triangle of casing 9.

15           Fig. 4 illustrates how the triangular casing 9 is closed with flap 13 and the two  
16   fasteners 11 and 12 (12 not shown) are secure.